

their small businesses afloat and keep food on the table, the last thing Members of Congress should be doing is trading stocks with any inside information.

As we work to restore Americans' trust in government, this is a common-sense step in ensuring that Americans throughout the country have no doubt about the work that we were sent here to do. This bill ensures more transparency in our government and is another step forward as we make our Congress more accountable to the people.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that this is my first cosponsored bill in the House.

MONTHLY COMMITMENT CHECKLIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a few of the ways that I am keeping my commitment to the people of the Big First.

A few weeks ago, I released my commitment to the Big First, which is a legislative roadmap for the 118th Congress that details my plans for an economy that is strong, a government that is accountable, a future that is built on freedom, and a nation that is safe.

Here are some of the ways I am working to get America back on track.

To create an economy that is strong, I voted "yes" on the Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act, which the House just passed. Kansas families and small businesses are already paying the price of President Biden's inflation tax. The last thing we need is 87,000 more IRS agents and 1.2 million more audits.

I voted "yes" on the Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act because it is a clear-cut way to fight back against one of the most egregious pieces of legislation from the last Congress.

The \$72 billion of taxpayer money that Washington Democrats allocated to the IRS last year would have ballooned the agency to a size larger than the Pentagon, State Department, FBI, and Border Patrol combined. I am committed to creating an economy that is strong by stopping President Biden's audit army, and I am keeping my commitment.

To create a government that is accountable, I voted "yes" on the Strategic Production Response Act, which the House also passed. President Biden has been playing fast and loose with one of our country's most important national security assets. His administration's energy policies have caused prices to skyrocket at the pump, and using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as a political tool to mask that failure has led to severe U.S. energy insecurity and depletion of our oil reserves, which poses a threat to our national security.

I voted "yes" on the Strategic Production Response Act, which is a step

toward ending President Biden's war on fossil fuels, empowering domestic energy producers, and resurrecting American energy independence by protecting our SPR from an administration that clearly doesn't understand how important it is. I made a commitment to hold the government accountable, and I am keeping that commitment.

To create a future that is built on freedom, I voted "yes" on the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, which the House passed. This vote was crystal clear: If a child is born alive following an abortion or an attempted abortion, that newborn child deserves the same standard of medical care that any newborn deserves.

It is horrifying that we need to address issues like this in a free country, but Washington Democrats have advocated for unthinkable, gruesome policies that constitute an all-out attack on human life. I am proud to be a pro-life Member of Congress, and I will always support policies that protect life. I made a commitment to building a future based on freedom by supporting the God-given right to life held by unborn American citizens, and I am keeping my commitment.

To create a nation that is safe, I will vote to denounce the horrors of socialism later this week. I hope that all of my colleagues can get behind this. Socialism ideology runs counter to everything we stand for in America because it requires the concentration of power, which results in totalitarianism. Democracy, on the other hand, enshrines individual liberty and gives people a voice in who governs them. Socialism creates famine, devastation, and bloodshed. It tears families apart, creates exile and mass theft, and flatly denies individual rights as fundamental as personal property.

You don't have to look very far, Mr. Speaker, into the history of socialism to find these abuses and atrocities. They happen every time a country tries socialism on for size.

It seems that certain people in America would like to experiment with socialism, but enough socialist experiments have been conducted already, and the verdict is clear: Socialism has no place on American soil.

I made a commitment to ensuring that America is a nation that is safe, which means continuing to stand strong as a world leader in democracy and freedom. I am keeping that commitment.

When we reflect on our work, it helps us to stay the course in the future, and we still have a lot of work to do in the 118th Congress. We need to create a balanced budget and strengthen the supply chain. We need to lower taxes and secure the southern border. We need to fully fund a robust police and military. We need a comprehensive reauthorization of the farm bill with strengthened crop insurance. We need a maintained stepped-up basis tax provision and global food security legislation that stops wars before they start.

I will be keeping all of these commitments to the people of the Big First, and I will continue to spend time thinking, praying, and reflecting on how best to serve the people in my district. I did not come to Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I am here to fight and work to make America stronger. With all of us working together, our brightest days are yet to come.

RESTORING THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my first general remarks on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I would like to start by thanking my predecessor, Jim Langevin, for his 22 years of distinguished service representing the people of Rhode Island's Second District.

As the first quadriplegic ever elected to Congress, Jim was no stranger to life's challenges. No matter what was thrown Jim's way, he always persevered.

For over two decades, Jim Langevin made Rhode Islanders proud through his leadership here in this body. He became widely recognized as an expert on national security and particularly cybersecurity. He was a trailblazer for the disability community and shepherded several key pieces of legislation that have made our society more accessible for all.

Most of all, Rhode Islanders always knew that they could count on Jim to listen to their problems and to advocate for their families here in Washington, D.C.

I thank Jim for all his years of service to Rhode Island.

I am so honored that Rhode Islanders have chosen me to take up the mantle of representing the Second District. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity, and I feel a great sense of responsibility to deliver for the working people who sent me here to fight on their behalf.

I enter Congress as a proud descendant of immigrants. My grandparents came of age during the Depression.

On my mother's side was Grandpa Bob, the son of Irish immigrants who grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts. After serving in the Marines in World War II, Bob took a job as a steelworker at a company that made airplane parts.

On my father's side was Grandpa Louis, the son of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who was raised in New York City and served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. After he returned, Louis worked as a bookkeeper in New York for a company that canned tomatoes.

Neither of them worked in particularly glamorous jobs, but with a lot of hard work and a little help from the GI Bill, these two children of immigrants

were able to buy houses for their families, put their kids through school, and earn a ticket to the middle class.

That is the way it is supposed to be in this country. If you work hard and play by the rules, you ought to be able to have a stable life, a comfortable retirement, and provide opportunity to your children.

We all know that has gotten harder. That American Dream of economic mobility has broken down for many families, and it was never fully afforded to others to begin with. There are a lot of statistics to back this up, but the Rhode Islanders I talk to don't want to see data. They feel it in their gut. They know that they are working harder and harder, but they feel that middle-class lifestyle slipping further out of reach.

This has to change. As a Representative for Rhode Island's Second District, I am determined to restore the promise of the American Dream so that everyone who is willing to do the right thing and work hard can get ahead.

That starts by going to bat for working people against the powerful interests and their well-funded lobbyists who stand in the way of better wages, better benefits, and good-paying jobs. We must fight for the right to organize because you cannot have a broad middle class without healthy labor unions. We have to take on Big Oil and Big Pharma, which are keeping record profits for themselves while overcharging Rhode Islanders at the gas pump and at the pharmacy.

We have to invest in childcare and universal preschool because no child's future should be limited by whether or not their parents have a lot of money.

I will advocate for vocational training and apprenticeships so that we have more people, like my Grandpa Bob, who can make a living by making things in this country.

I will partner with anyone on either side of the aisle to bring back more manufacturing jobs and transition to a clean energy economy.

I will always fight to defend the freedoms and democratic ideals that make us the greatest nation on Earth.

This is my commitment to the people of Rhode Island. There is no question we have a lot of work ahead of us, but together, I am confident that we can deliver real change to Washington so that all Rhode Islanders and all working Americans can have the opportunity to succeed.

□ 1045

CONDEMNING SOCIALISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in support of the House concurrent resolution to denounce socialism in all its forms.

For decades, the embrace of socialist ideas around the world has led to evil regimes denying their people of their

fundamental human rights and subjecting them to imprisonment and abuse.

Countless Cubans, Venezuelans, Russians, Chinese, Cambodians, and Koreans have escaped from murderous regimes to come live a better life in America. They are all a true testament to the promise of the American Dream and the hope of prosperity.

These survivors are members of our family, our friends, and our neighbors, like Pablo Cuevas from Rockingham County.

Born and raised in Cuba, Pablo worked on his parents' farm, which was apparently dispossessed by the Marxists. Pablo fled Cuba in 1958 during the Cuban Revolution and resettled here in America. He served on the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors in my district for 30 years and continues to be a leader in our community.

Mr. Speaker, socialism has led to painful human tragedies such as starvation, torture, and mass murder, taking more than 100 million lives around the world.

As oppressive and violent regimes still exist today, this resolution reaffirms our support for freedom, democracy, and human rights. May we always ensure that dangerous socialist, un-American policies are never brought to pass here in our great country.

WOODSTOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 200th anniversary of the all-volunteer Woodstock Fire Department.

Tracing its history back to 1823, the department has served the Shenandoah Valley as one of the oldest departments in the Commonwealth and the Nation.

Today, the department has 40 active volunteers who selflessly risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of their neighbors and the preservation of the community.

The department is led by Captain Zach Hottel, a third-generation volunteer himself, and truly represents the spirit of service. Captain Hottel and the volunteers' dedication to serving others, who are sometimes experiencing the unimaginable, defines what it means to serve your neighbor. It is an example we should all strive to follow every day.

The Woodstock Fire Department is commemorating its founding of February 8, 1823, with a bicentennial birthday bash at the Woodstock fire station.

Congratulations again to the Woodstock Fire Department on this incredible milestone. I wish them another 200 years of success in serving the people of the Shenandoah Valley.

TOP ISSUES IMPACTING OREGON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the top issues im-

pacting Oregon and the Fifth District that we have to address in the 118th Congress.

We need to get our economy back on track, secure the border, support safe immigration, and reduce homelessness and drug overdoses.

A report from the National Drug Helpline ranked Oregon worst in the Nation for drug problems. Oregon is number one in drug use, but number 50 in drug treatment.

This crisis in Oregon starts at our southern border and is exacerbated by the lack of leadership, including the lack of commonsense security measures that have allowed dangerous drugs like fentanyl to enter our communities.

I frequently hear from moms and families who are begging their leaders to please pay attention to this fentanyl crisis. The drug cartels have insisted on taking our children from us.

We have also seen an increase in violent crime. Mr. Speaker, 2022 was the deadliest year in Portland metro history with over 100 homicides. We are already on track to break that record this year, a record that we should never want to break.

Rising crime rates have forced businesses to close their doors, further weakening our economy. We have seen businesses leave the metro area for suburbia or leave the State altogether.

Tackling the drug crisis will, in turn, begin to help Oregon's homelessness crisis. Oregon had at least 18,000 homeless people living on the streets every day in 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to address these issues in the 118th Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOWELL MILES

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say the name of a gentleman I heard passed from Happy Valley, Oregon. He was a pillar of the community, and I want the families back home to know that we will miss Lowell Miles from Miles Fiberglass.

He was a pillar of the community, not only in Happy Valley, Oregon, where I reside, but in Clackamas County.

Mr. Speaker, the family has my support here in Washington, D.C., and I look forward to coming home this weekend and paying my respects.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BICE) at noon.